

Legislature approves the “Use of Force Policy” for Menominee Tribal Law Enforcement

Marci Hawpetoss
Menominee Nation News

On Thursday, November 17, 2005 the Menominee Tribal Law Enforcement Center approached the Menominee Tribal Legislature with a ‘Use of Force’ policy which includes a provision for the use of Taser Guns by the Menominee Tribal Police.

Tribal Police Chief Mark Waukau presented the proposed policy to the Menominee Tribal Legislature. Shawano Police Chief Ed Whealon, Oneida Police Chief Greg Powless and Menominee County Sheriff Deputy Doug Moore were at the meeting to explain the effectiveness Taser Guns have in reducing confrontations when law enforcement takes individuals into custody.

Mark Waukau explained, “the Tribal Police have been confronted four times where use of deadly force would have been justified. Fortunately, Tribal Police

See **TASER GUNS** pg.3

Tribe now offers tax exempt gas to tribal members



R. Penass/Menominee Nation News

Menominee Tribal member, Chris Caldwell fills up his gas tank at the New Menominee Pumps located in Keshena. The Menominee Pumps are now open 7 days a week, 24 hours a day.

Roberta Penass
Menominee Nation News

The new Menominee gas pumps are now open to the public, which is located in Keshena, across from the Menominee Casino Bingo and Hotel.

The gas pumps are open, 7 days a week, 24 hours a day and you are able to use cash, visa, master and debit cards.

New Tribal ID’s are required and are now being issued by the

Menominee Licensing and Permits Department free of charge. New cards are required because of the addition of a bar code that will need to be swiped at the gas pumps to receive the tax exempt gas.

How do you get a new tax exempt card? All enrolled Menominee members ages 16 and up are required to complete a Menominee enrollment verification form at the Enrollment office. This form verifies your name, address and enrollment. You will then

be required to take the form to the Licensing and Permits Department. You will then receive another form to sign that explains how to use your tax exempt card to receive gas at the Menominee pumps.

The Enrollment department and Licensing & Permit department are both located down stairs in the Tribal office building.

See **GAS** pg.3

Dedication & Open House held at Menominee Judicial Center



R. Penass/Menominee Nation News

Standing (l to r) Judge Thomas Grover, Judge Stephanie Grochowski, Judge Wendell Askenette, and Chief Judge Robert Kittecon take a photo with honoree former Chief Justice Wilmer Peters, Sr. (setting) during the dedication ceremony on December 2, 2005.

See **DEDICATION** pg.2

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Taser Guns continued from front page

were able to call in other departments to deplore the Taser, which eliminated the need to use deadly force. All four (4) individuals were taken into custody and no one was harmed during the confrontation.

Tribal Administrator Jeremy Weso volunteered to be subject to the Taser Gun in a demonstration presented to the Tribal Legislature. He was able to recover within five seconds of being tasered. "The legislative body was able to see first hand the effects Taser Guns have on a person," stated Waukau.

Legislator Reiter motioned to reaffirm the use of Taser Guns by the Menominee Tribal Police Department. This motion was seconded by Legislator Washinawatok and passed 6-1. The motion was opposed by Legislator Fish, Legislator Johnson was absent.

Master Sergeant Warren Warrington stated, "Tasers are tools to stop a violent aggressor. This tool significantly decreases the injury risk to the aggressor and officer."

On a force continuum, Tasers are below the deadly force measure, therefore reducing risk of injury to the community and officer by 60% in aggressive confrontations.

This motion requires the Menominee Tribal Police to coordinate community education sessions regarding the use of Taser Guns in each community prior to enforcing this 'Use of Force' policy.

Police Chief Mark Waukau feels the community education sessions are important. "These sessions are an opportunity to eliminate or alleviate any misconceptions the community may have about the use of Taser Guns."

The community meetings will be held on December 27th in the Keshena Board Room, Tribal Offices at 6:00 p.m.; December 28th at the Neopit Community Center at 6:00 p.m.; December 29th at the South Branch Community Center at 6:00 p.m..

Pursuant to the Menominee Tribal Legislature motion, the Menominee Tribal Police will implement the use of Taser Guns immediately following these community education sessions.

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The Licensing & Permit department will be open from 8:00 a.m - 4:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday.

Operating and use of the Menominee fuels station: you must insert Menominee Tribal ID card first to receive discount, follow posted instructions on pump for payment, remove nozzle from pump and turn lever on, after fueling replace nozzle on pump.

Gas pumps do not give change. Any change due you will be issued a "Change Due Code" this code can be entered and used toward your next cash purchase.

Safety instructions: Always turn off engine before fueling, never smoke or use open flame devices in the vicinity of pumps, never use a cell phone in the vicinity of pumps, never dispense gasoline into a glass container. Use only red metal containers or UL listed or classified containers for gasoline, familiarize yourself with the location of the fire extinguisher and emergency shutoff, to use fire extinguisher, break glass to gain access and follow instructions, to disconnect electric power to pumps push button on emergency shutoff, in case of a gasoline spill or any other hazardous condition break glass to gain access to emergency telephone and call 911.

For additional non-emergency information call the Licensing and Permits department @ 799-5142 or Transportation department @ 799-3222.